

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PERSONNEL IN SCRUB AND CIRCULATING ROLES

Nurses, operating department practitioners (ODPs) and theatre support workers should work collaboratively to:

- Maintain awareness of the potential for blood loss, including the surgical procedures and patients most at risk⁵⁰
- Monitor blood loss throughout the procedure, including blood loss in suction canisters, in surgical swabs, clots and the surgical drapes⁵⁴
- Ensure the volume of suction, irrigation volume and fluid output is visible or recorded, such as ensuring the urometer is visible
- Communicate accurate and timely blood loss estimates with the team to enable effective decision making, and ensure blood loss estimates are clearly visible to the anaesthetist throughout the procedure^{55,56}
- Ensure staff are trained and maintain competence in the use of cell salvage systems,⁵⁷ including indications for use⁵⁸
- Swab washing may be considered to allow blood that would normally be lost in swabs, to be salvaged during intraoperative cell salvage. This can significantly increase the volume of RBCs for reinfusion. Follow guidance from Joint Professional Advisory Committee (JPAC) for the correct procedure⁵⁸
- Intraoperative Cell Salvage can be useful for: spinal surgery, penetrating trauma, gynaecological surgery including ectopic, urology and cardiac surgery.